

1104.0 - CURF Microdata News, Feb 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 25/02/2011

CONTENTS



In this issue

Includes: **A note from our Director**



New and upcoming CURF releases

Includes: **New CURFs and those coming soon**



2010 Annual renewals - update

Includes: **2010 renewals**



Stop, think and don't share!

Includes: **Bob and Jane discuss access to microdata**



Short Cuts

Answers to **RADL** frequently asked questions



Consultancies and CURF use

Includes: **How consultants and third party organisations may access CURFs**

This page last updated 31 May 2011

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In this issue

Though it is only February the work of a new year started very promptly in early January for ABS Microdata Access Strategies. CURF applications continued to flow in over the New Year and summer break and the team have been kept busy answering your queries and concerns.

This Newsletter provides information to help the many CURF users who are interested to use CURFs while undertaking consultancies for an organisation other than their home organisation. Over the past several years we have simplified the process for applying for CURF for consultancy projects but provide a short article in this Newsletter as well as a link to an updated web page to further assist CURF applicants and those already using CURFs.

Also included in this issue are several Short Cut tips for RADL users. We hope these are useful and invite you to contact us if you have other queries or issues. While we can't provide answers to all your questions we do try very hard to provide a quality service.

On that note, I would add that I would welcome your feedback about our service at any time.

Kim Farley-Larmour
Director, Microdata Access Strategies

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New and upcoming CURF releases

To receive information about a CURF on the day of its release, please subscribe to the free ABS Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access use the MiCRO online CURF application system web page.

Microdata: Labour Force and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2010 (cat. no 6202.0.30.004)

Release: 9 December 2010

These Basic and Expanded CURFs contains data from both the monthly Labour Force survey and the related Labour Mobility supplementary survey.

The Labour Mobility data is in relation to people aged 15 years and over who had worked at some time during the year ending February 2010. In addition to the standard labour force data items, the Labour Mobility data provides details of changes in jobs between employers/businesses for up to three jobs and, for those people who have been with their employer/business for the last 12 months, the changes in their job including promotion, transfer, changes in occupation and usual hours worked. Estimates can be cross-classified by demographics such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

Steps to confidentialise the dataset have been taken to ensure the integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. They include removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Basic CURF is available on CD-ROM and users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. The Expanded CURF is available in the RADL only.

Microdata: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4177.0.55.002)

Expected release: March 2011

This Expanded CURF provides detailed data relating to Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation as collected in the 2009–10 Multipurpose Household Survey.

As well as general demographic data such as age, sex and country of birth, it contains a range of data items relating to the number and characteristics of people who participate in a variety of sport and physical activities. The data relate to persons aged 15 years and over who participated in sport and physical recreation activities as players, competitors or persons who physically undertook an activity.

The CURF enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the data have been taken that ensures the confidentiality of respondents while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the data and optimising its content. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual and reducing the level of detail for some data items.

The Expanded CURF is available RADL or the ABS on-site Data Laboratory (ABSDL). The publication, Technical Manual: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009–10 (cat.

no. 4177.0.55.001), explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use and should be used in conjunction with this CURF. An Excel spreadsheet listing all the data items available on the Expanded CURF accompanies the Technical Manual.

Microdata: Personal Safety Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2005 (Reissue) (cat. no. 4906.0.55.00)
Expected release: April 2011

This microdata is available as Expanded CURF through the RADL. The CURF is a comprehensive unit record file providing details on the nature and extent of violence against men and women, the effects of this violence, information on abuse, harassment and on people's feelings of safety within the home and in the community. Users are able to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analysis to their individual specifications.

Information about the data content, technical details and conditions of use is provided in Technical Manual: Personal Safety Survey, Australia, Expanded CURF, (cat. no. 4906.0.55.002).

This reissue corrects errors in a number of data items on the file. The former Violence level has been split into two levels:

Violence - prevalence; and
Violence - most recent incident (MRI).

Some data items have been removed from the file and some new data items have been added, and some data items have been moved to the person level, from other levels of the file.

The Technical Manual: Personal Safety Survey, Australia, Expanded CURF, (cat. no. 4906.0.55.002) has also been reissued, and contains details of the corrections and changes to the CURF, and a revised data items list.

For further future CURF releases please see our [List of Expected CURFs](#) web page.

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Document content:



2010 Annual renewals - update

The 2010 annual renewal of access to CURFs commenced in the second half of 2010 and most Contact Officers have now submitted their organisational updates.

Some Contact Officers who have not yet completed their annual renewal have been in contact with us, but for those who have not, we urge you to complete the renewal process as soon as possible. ABS may withdraw access to CURFs for the organisation or individual users if the renewal is not completed so completing the process is important. If you are having difficulty with your renewal please contact us by email to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714. We will endeavour to assist you where we can.

Contact Officers should be aware that if the head of their organisation has changed, a new Responsible Officer Undertaking must be submitted. Without a new Undertaking ABS cannot provide further access to CURFs. The Responsible Officer Undertaking web page provides the Undertaking as well as information about why an Undertaking is required and who should sign it.

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Stop, think and don't share!

While the following takes a light-hearted approach, the message is a serious one.

"Hi Bob, do you have a copy of that ABS microdata handy?"

Bob reached over for his key to the secure cabinet, but then stops and thinks... access to ABS CURFs is granted on an individual basis only.

"Sorry Jane, I can't share my copy. You will need to be approved by the ABS to have access to that CURF. If I let you see my copy, it would represent a serious breach of the terms and conditions for access to ABS CURFs. If you want to gain access to the CURF it is really easy to apply through the ABS online CURF application system - MiCRO."

Jane thinks for a while... "Well how about you show me your non-aggregated output from the CURF?"

"Sorry Jane, but this also requires that you have ABS approval to access the CURF. If I were to show you the data or non-aggregated output, then sanctions outlined in the Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking may apply to the organisations and individuals found to be sharing access. Our organisation could lose access to CURFs altogether and I know you wouldn't want that to happen".

"How about we get you set up in MiCRO right now? It really is very easy" says Bob.

Jane agrees. In no time at all, Jane is happily reviewing the CURF microdata herself !

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Short Cuts

Short Cuts is an irregular feature providing tips for CURF users and Contact Officers. In this issue we provide answers to some frequently asked RADL questions:

1. What should I do before commencing analysis of CURFs in RADL?

Prior to submitting your code and commencing your analysis, all users should:

- read the RADL home page information, including any RADL Alerts
- click on the RADL Help link on the navigator on the left of the page and read:
 - 'Information for all RADL Users' - this provides general information for the statistical language you will use
 - 'CURF Documentation' links - this provides the CURF's Technical and Information Papers, Unit Identifiers, CURF 'shortname' and frequencies for the CURF.

2. What Unit record identifiers do I need to retain?

It is a requirement that all Unit Identifiers are retained on your saved unit record datasets, even though some of them may not be needed for your analysis. A list of Unit Identifiers can be found for each CURF in the RADL Help pages under 'CURF documentation'. To find these pages see the answer to question 1 above.

3. Why can't I see my approved CURFs in RADL?

There are two possible reasons:

- The ABS implemented several RADL system changes in late 2010. These included changes to the format of the "New Requests" page and it is now necessary to select the language you want to use before your approved CURFs list will appear for selection.
- Additional RADL user IDs are allocated to approved users wishing to access the 2004-05 NATSIH, or 2002 and 2008 NATSISS CURFs. Some users will have user identifiers ending with "_STATE" or "_REM". If you have one of these user IDs you should log in with each of your user IDs to check whether the CURF you want to use is attached to your other ID.

If this doesn't fix the problem, please email Microdata Access Strategies on microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call us on 02 6252 7714.

4. Some of my jobs are timing out. Why?

When users submit a 'normal' job, RADL will try to process the job for 10 minutes before timing out. Some complex jobs will take longer than this, so users can submit jobs as 'long' jobs and RADL will then queue them for later processing. Some of these longer jobs may need to run for a number of hours. An alternative to running a 'long' job is to split your code into several smaller jobs. Users can submit jobs using 'normal' timing in the first instance, as most jobs will be completed in less than 10 minutes.

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Consultancies and CURF use

CURF users often ask if they can use the CURF to support work they are doing for another organisation - such as within a consultancy project. ABS supports such uses as long as those who will use or see CURF microdata are approved by ABS to do so.

Some users involved in consultancy projects are unsure about which organisation should take responsibility for the use of the CURF used in the consultancy project. Should it be the researcher's home organisation, or the organisation which is commissioning the research? The answer is that the organisation with responsibility for the CURF user also has responsibility for their CURF use. In most instances this will be the home organisation.

Whether the organisation commissioning the research also needs to be approved by ABS to access the CURF will depend on what information the consultant plans to share with them. If microdata itself is to be shared then the commissioning organisation will definitely need to be approved by ABS to access the CURF.

The CURF application process for consultants is the same as for any other CURF applicant and includes a question about whether the CURF will be used for a project for an organisation other than the home organisation. ABS uses the information provided in the application to ensure all those who need to access CURFs gain ABS approval.

If you have been using a CURF for some time and wish to go on to use it for a consultancy project you should contact ABS Microdata Access to ensure the appropriate approvals are provided.

For more information please see the Consultants and third party organisations web page or contact us by email to microdata.access@abs.gov.au, or phone 02 6252 7714.

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CURF Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter created by the Microdata Access Strategies Section at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

CURF Microdata News is aimed at informing new and current Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Microdata users about issues and developments in the access to, and use of, CURF Microdata. The newsletter periodically covers topics such as available and forthcoming microdata releases, terms and conditions of access, responsible access to microdata and best practice tips, pricing, microdata research outputs, frequently asked questions, and information about applying for ABS CURF microdata.

Interested readers are also invited to visit the CURF Microdata pages on the ABS web site for relevant up-to-date information about each of these matters.

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